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CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-Hour Report

29 November 2017

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Menlo Park – Facebook Reports Progress on Removing Online Extremist Content

(U) Facebook announced today that it was removing ninety-nine percent of content related to militant groups Islamic State of Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) and al-Qa'ida before being notified of it by the community, as it prepared for a meeting with European authorities on tackling extremist content online. Currently, eighty-three percent of "terror content" is removed within one hour of being uploaded, according to statements from Facebook's head of global policy management and the head of counterterrorism policy.

SOURCE: 28 November 2017, Reuters

(U) San Francisco – Yahoo Email Hacker Pleads Guilty

(U) Karim Baratov, a 23-year-old Canadian citizen who was accused of participating in a hack of Yahoo that resulted in more than 500 million accounts being stolen, pleaded guilty to multiple charges yesterday in a San Francisco court. Baratov pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit computer fraud and abuse and eight counts of aggravated identity theft. Baratov is scheduled to be sentenced in February and could face up to 20 years in prison for his role in the hack of Yahoo. SOURCE: 28 November 2017, International Business Times

(U) Santa Clarita – LA Sheriff's Deputy Hospitalized after Being Shot

(U) A Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department deputy was taken to a hospital after being struck by gunfire in a shooting that also left a suspect wounded in Santa Clarita last night. Authorities did not immediately provide information about what led up to the shooting, which occurred about 10:30 p.m. at an apartment complex. The deputy was transported to a local hospital and was listed in stable condition as of this morning. The condition of the injured suspect is unknown. A search for a second suspect resulted in authorities detaining a man, who is cooperating with authorities, according to police. SOURCE: 28 November 2017, KTLA 5 Los Angeles

(U) NATIONAL

(U) District of Columbia – Sole Defendant in Benghazi Attacks Convicted of Terrorism Charges

(U) Washington — A Libyan man accused of taking part in the deadly assault on the US mission in Benghazi in 2012 that killed four Americans was found guilty on four of 18 charges yesterday. Ahmed Abu Khatallah—the sole suspect in the 2012 seige—was convicted of conspiracy to provide material support for terrorism and faces up to 60 years in prison, but was acquitted of the murder charges for the deaths of Ambassador Chris Stevens, Sean Smith, Tyrone Woods, and Glen Doherty. SOURCE: 28 November 2017, National Public Radio

(U) Florida - Suspect Arrested in Serial Murders

(U) Tampa – Police have arrested Howell Emanuel Donaldson, 24, and will charge him with four counts of first-degree murder in a string of random killings in a Tampa neighborhood. The tip that led police yesterday to Donaldson came from one of his co-workers at an Ybor City McDonalds, which is near the

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Seminole Heights neighborhood that has seen four fatal shootings since early October. All of the victims were either getting on or off a city bus, or were at a bus stop when they were shot, police said. SOURCE: 29 November 2017, Associated Press

(U) Nevada – Gunman who Fired Shots from High-rise Condo Killed in Standoff

(U) Reno – A gunman with a hostage opened fire from the eighth floor of a luxury high-rise condominium in Reno last night onto the streets below, Reno Police Deputy Chief Tom Robinson said. Some reporting indicated that shots were heard from the building for at least 20 minutes, although no injuries were reported. The man, whose name has not been released, died after a SWAT team engaged him while he was barricaded at the Montage condo complex. It was not immediately clear whether he was killed by police gunfire or his own.

SOURCE: 28 November 2017, Associated Press

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Somalia – US Targets ISIS in Northeastern Somalia

(U) Mogadishu — US forces launched an airstrike against ISIS in Somalia on 27 November, killing one fighter. AFRICOM did not provide a more detailed location than "northeastern Somalia" in its press release, which likely refers to Puntland, a semi-autonomous region which borders the strategically-significant Gulf of Aden. ISIS is known to have operated a training camp there, which the US began targeting in early November. The group is currently estimated to have about 70 fighters in the area, down from more than 200 a year ago. This latest airstrike occurs just days after the US conducted a similar operation northwest of Mogadishu on 21 November, killing more than 100 al-Shabaab fighters. SOURCE: 27 November 2017, Reuters

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California - \$1.9M in Drugs Seized at US-Mexico Border

(U) San Ysidro — US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers over the weekend intercepted 502 pounds of narcotics valued at more than \$1.9 million at ports of entry along the California border with Mexico. CBP officers intercepted more than 480 pounds of methamphetamine, seven pounds of cocaine, four pounds of heroin and seven pounds of fentanyl. The narcotics were hidden in various places, including vehicles' gas tank, car battery, and doors, as well as taped to traveler's bodies. SOURCE: 28 November 2017, ABC 10 News

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

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